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- basically the same thing? 1
 - Basically the same thing, yes. Α.
- Exhibit 15. Can you identify where that is located? 3 Q.
 - This is at 53 Columbia Avenue, I believe, in Α.
- 5 Rehoboth.

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- Can you turn to the next exhibit, 16? 6 Q.
- That's on Rehoboth Avenue at City Hall. 7 Α.
- What does it portray? Q. 8
- Convention Center Sign. 9 Α.
- City of Rehoboth Convention Center with an arrow 10 Q.
- pointing to the center. Tell me approximately how tall that 11
- 12 is?
- Probably 30 feet. 13 Α.
- And that is on Rehoboth Avenue? 14 Q.
- 15 Yes. Α.
- Rehoboth Avenue is the main commercial avenue in the 16 Q.
- City of Rehoboth? 17
- Yes. 18 Α.
- Can you turn to Exhibit 16? 19 Q.
- 20 Yes. Α.
- This is a for sale sign? 21 Q.
- For sale sign in Schoolview. It's either at the 22 Α.
- corner of New Castle Extended or Lee Street at the 23
- intersection of Bay Road and State Road. 24
- Turn to 17. Tell me what that is. 25 Q.

Case 1:05-cv-00514-GMS Document 34-4 Filed 10/18/2005 Page 2 of 47, Hill - direct 1 This is at the corner of Third Street and Lake Α. 2 Avenue, next door to the Bad Hair Day. That's the house that is under construction. 3 Is that a North Star Heating and Cooling sign? 4 Q. 5 Α. Yes. And is there a -- there is a utility pole, is there 6 Q. 7 not? 8 Α. Yes. And can you describe, where is the utility pole? 9 Q. The utility pole is a temporary pole, and there is a 10 Α. street sign, a 4x4 post to the right of the sign. And I 11 believe it has about the parking. 12 Turn to Plaintiffs' Exhibit 17. 13 Q. MR. RHODUNDA: 18? 14 15 MR. TUCKER: 18. 16 Α. This is the tot lot at Lake Gerar. 17

MR. TUCKER: That's 18?

MR. SCHILTZ: This is 18.

MR. TUCKER: Yes.

MR. SCHILTZ: I'm sorry, Your Honor.

correct the record.

BY MR. SCHILTZ:

- Is that marked as Plaintiffs' Exhibit 18? Q.
- No, 19. 24 Α.

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25 Q. Pardon me? 1 A. This is 19, the tot lot.

THE COURT: You may have named 16 twice.

MR. SCHILTZ: May I, for the record, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. SCHILTZ: Plaintiffs' Exhibit 16 is the City of Rehoboth Beach sign. Plaintiffs' Exhibit 17 is the for sale sign by skip Klaus, Plaintiffs' Exhibit 18 is the North Star Heating and Cooling sign, Plaintiffs' Exhibit 19 is the tot lot sign at Gerar Park.

10 BY MR. SCHILTZ:

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- 11 Q. Is that correct?
- 12 A. Lake Gerar Park, yes.
- Q. Turn to Plaintiff Exhibit 20. Can you identify that,
- sir, where is that is located?
- A. Village Improvement Association. It's at the corner of Grenoble Street and Lakeview.
- 17 Q. That is behind the sidewalk, is it not?
- 18 A. It's on public property.
- 19 Q. Who owns the parking lot behind the sidewalk?
- 20 A. The parking lot is zoned. The property is owned by
- 21 the City of Rehoboth with the lease to the Village
- 22 Improvement Association.
- Q. Turn to Plaintiffs' Exhibit 21. And can you tell me
- 24 where the sign is located?
- 25 A. At the corner of 2nd and Oaks Street in Rehoboth.

Case 1:05-cv-00514-GMS Document 34-4 Filed 10/18/2005 Page 4 of 1474 Hill - direct

- 1 0. Plaintiffs' 22.
- 2 A. At the corner of Second Street and Henlopen Avenue.
- 3 Q. Plaintiffs' 23?
- 4 A. It's located in Lake Gerar Park.
- 5 Q. And Plaintiffs' 24?
- 6 A. It's on Sixth Street in Rehoboth.
- Q. Were you present when each of these pictures were
- 8 taken?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. By each of these pictures, I'm referring to
- 11 Plaintiffs' Exhibit 12 through 24?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 | Q. As well as Plaintiffs' Exhibit 11?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Are they a true and accurate representation of the
- 16 scene as it existed at that time?
- 17 A. Yes.
- MR. SCHILTZ: I have no further questions, Your
- 19 | Honor.
- 20 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Rhodunda.
- 21 Oh, we previously admitted these documents, I
- 22 believe, but let's be specific. 12 through 24? You are
- 23 seeking their admission; right?
- 24 MR. SCHILTZ: Absolutely, Your Honor.
- 25 THE COURT: All right.

Hill - cross 1 MR. RHODUNDA: No objection. 2 THE COURT: No objection, right? 3 MR. RHODUNDA: Right. 4 THE COURT: Admitted with no objection. 5 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit Nos. 12 through 24 were 6 received into evidence.) 7 CROSS-EXAMINATION 8 BY MR. RHODUNDA: 9 Mr. Hill, are you a campaign supporter of the Q. plaintiffs' group? 10 11 I'm helping the campaign, yes. 12 Do you know when these political signs were put in Q. 13 the locations where you photographed them? 14 I don't know exactly when they were put in that Α. 15 location, no. 16 Q. And do you know that they were removed by this date? 17 Α. These signs? 18 Q. The political signs. 19 THE COURT: Removed by what date, sir? 20 MR. RHODUNDA: By today. 21 As of yesterday, they were still there. Α. 22 BY MR. RHODUNDA: 23 Q. All of them? 24 Α. The only ones that had been moved were ones at 25 Commissioner Henry DeWitt's house. They were moved from

Filed 10/18/2005 Page 5 of 47₅

Filed 10/18/2005 Page 6 of 14076 Dover Street around to Columbia Avenue. Now, did you drive and look at each and every one of Q. these locations? Yes, I looked at them yesterday and I looked at them Α. the day before. Q. Now, do you still have the exhibits in front of you right now? Α. Yes. Q. Did you have Exhibit 12 in front of you? Α. Yes. Q. And --Wait a minute. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Α. THE COURT: You can't have all of them because I have three of them. MR. SCHILTZ: Just for clarity on the record, can we have where they start and end? Is it 10 through 25, these pictures? THE COURT: Yes. MR. SCHILTZ: Thank you. BY MR. RHODUNDA:

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Q. Exhibit 12, do you have that in front of you?

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THE COURT: I'll tell you what. If it will be

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helpful, you can go ahead and question him from up there,

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all right?

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MR. RHODUNDA: Thank you, Your Honor.

ase 1:05-cv-00514-GMS Document 34-4 Filed 10/18/2005 Page 7 of 47 Hill - cross

THE COURT: Mr. Hill, I'm going to have the
attorney step right up there and show you the exact picture

4 BY MR. RHODUNDA:

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- Q. Exhibit 12, do these three signs appear to be behind the telephone pole?
- 7 A. They appear to be, yes.

he is looking at; all right?

- Q. Exhibit 13, does this sign appear to be behind the telephone pole line down the street?
 - A. It does, but there is no sidewalk here.
- 11 Q. I understand that. But is it behind the telephone pole?
- 13 A. It appears to be.
- 14 | Q. Now, Exhibit 14, there is a telephone pole here?
- 15 A. It appears to be. And here is the property line survey stake right there.
- 17 Q. So there is a Dennis Barbour and Ron Patterson sign?
- 18 A. Yes, on public property.
- 19 Q. Do you believe those signs are still there today?
- 20 A. I think one of them was there yesterday, but I'm
 21 pretty sure this sign was there yesterday.
- Q. Was it the same location or was it moved back behind the property line which looks like six inches behind it?
- 24 A. I'm not going to say.
- 25 Q. So it very well could have been moved behind the

ase 1:05-cv-00514-GMS Document 34-4 Filed 10/18/2005 Page 8 of \$\frac{4}{6}\} Hill - cross

- 1 property line; is that right?
- 2 A. It could be.
- 3 | Q. Exhibit 15 shows two Barbour signs and a Ron
- 4 Patterson sign?
- 5 A. Uh-huh.
- 6 Q. They appear to be behind?
- 7 A. That's correct. I don't believe that is the property
- 8 line at all.
- 9 Q. Do you have some sort of plot plan?
- 10 A. I can look at the corner of Second Street and
- 11 Columbia Avenue and tell.
- 12 Q. Based on what?
- 13 A. Based on what? At most corners on Rehoboth, they
- 14 | have a corner, it's like a sidewalk. The sidewalk doesn't
- 15 go all the way down the street. I don't know exactly what
- they're called, but I think if you look at the corner of
- 17 Second and Columbia, you can pretty much tell.
- 18 Q. This picture does not show a sidewalk at all?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 | Q. It does not show a telephone pole, does it?
- 21 A. No.
- Q. Okay. So if you are using as a guidepost sidewalks
- and telephone poles, you can't see them in this picture?
- 24 A. That is correct.
- 25 Q. Exhibit 17 is near Bad Hair Day business which is

Qase 1:05-cv-00514-GMS Document 34-4 Filed 10/18/2005 Page 9 of 479

Hill - cross

- 1 | right at this location right here; correct?
- 2 A. It's on this side, yes.
- Q. Do you know how long this North Star sign was located
- 4 here?

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- 5 A. It's been there quite awhile.
- 6 Q. Was it there yesterday?
- 7 A. I didn't go by there yesterday but I believe it was 8 there the day before.
- Q. Now, you were involved with finding some signs or locating some signs behind the police department area where the Public Works Shop is; correct?
- A. I found six political signs in the back of the Building Inspector's pickup truck.
 - Q. And there were the other real estate signs, auction signs and other signs?
 - A. There was one real estate sign, there was a Pep Air sign and I think there was one or two auction signs.
 - Q. And I believe when you testified about your experience in the City of Rehoboth regarding political signs, you drive around the city a lot, apparently took many photographs. You are familiar with how the city looks today?
- 23 A. Yes.
 - Q. Are there any political signs at any parks today?
- 25 A. I haven't seen any political signs at any parks.

Did you see any signs between the sidewalk and the

1 2 Q.

curb anywhere in the City of Rehoboth?

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THE COURT: Today?

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MR. RHODUNDA: Today, yes.

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A. Today, I didn't. I left Rehoboth very early this morning.

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BY MR. RHODUNDA:

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Q. How about yesterday?

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A. I would say there are signs in the public right-of-way, public property in the city of Rehoboth as of yesterday.

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Q. Between the curb and the sidewalk, did you see any signs for any candidates?

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A. Not between any curb and sidewalk, but I did see signs on public property in the city of Rehoboth Beach yesterday.

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Q. Now, what type property are you talking about?

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A. I'm talking about off my street, Henlopen Avenue, there are signs in the public property from Surf Avenue all the way to the west end of Henlopen Avenue, and the same on

2021

Columbia.

side.

Q. Are there telephone poles along the street?

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A. There are poles on one side and not on the other

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Q. Are the signs on the side with the telephone poles or

1 | not telephone poles?

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- A. They're on the street side of the telephone poles.
 - Q. Do you have pictures of those?
- A. No, I do not.
- Q. Now, your testimony is, based on your past political run for office, you indicate that you placed some signs in the public right-of-way and I think you said the day before the election you placed them at the end of the streets; is that correct?
 - A. Friday afternoon I did, yes.
- 11 O. And that was just for one day, presumably?
- 12 A. Exactly. The election day.
 - Q. Did you place your signs in public parks?
 - A. I don't recall putting them in the lake area, no.

THE COURT: Let me interrupt, Mr. Rhodunda.

Is your testimony that the only time you put signs up in the public rights-of-way was the day before the election?

THE WITNESS: No, I think I put signs up on public property, but at the end of the streets I did it on the Friday before the election day.

THE COURT: All right.

THE WITNESS: Because the election was on Saturdays and signs were removed on Sunday.

THE COURT: All right. And when you say the

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| | Hill - cross | | |
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| 1 | Q. When did he do that? | | |
| 2 | A. It was in the fall of 2003, I believe. It was | | |
| 3 | 2000 probably in late in the early fall of 2003. It's | | |
| 4 | when I had the property for sale. Two times. | | |
| 5 | Q. Two times? | | |
| 6 | THE COURT: What kind of sign was that? | | |
| 7 | THE WITNESS: Tit was a real estate for sale | | |
| 8 | sign. There were two signs on that particular street. One | | |
| 9 | was taken, one was left. | | |
| 10 | MR. RHODUNDA: Thank you. | | |
| 11 | MR. SCHILTZ: I have no questions, Your Honor. | | |
| 12 | THE COURT: All right. Thank you, sir. You may | | |
| 13 | step down. | | |
| 14 | You rest? | | |
| 15 | MR. SCHILTZ: We rest our case-in-chief, reserve | | |
| 16 | right to bring a rebuttal witness, if necessary. I don't | | |
| 17 | anticipate it, but | | |
| 18 | THE COURT: All right. Mr. Rhodunda. | | |
| 19 | MR. RHODUNDA: Yes, Your Honor. We'd like to | | |
| 20 | call Mr. Ferrese. | | |
| 21 | - | | |
| 22 | DEFENDANTS' TESTIMONY | | |
| 23 | GREGORY JAMES FERRESE, having been placed | | |
| 24 | under oath at 12:40 p.m. as a witness, was | | |
| 2. | overmined and testified as follows | | |

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2 THE COURT: Mr. Rhodunda, I think your

3 co-counsel wants to speak with you.

MR. SPEAKMAN: It's a hearing problem, Your

Honor.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. RHODUNDA:

- Q. Thank you. Mr. Ferrese, could you please indicate to the Court what your position is with the City of Rehoboth?
- 10 A. Yes. I've been City Manager for the City of Rehoboth
 11 Beach since 1983.
 - Q. What are your responsibilities in that position?
 - A. I am the Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Rehoboth Beach, and I answer to the Mayor and Commissioners of Rehoboth Beach. All departments are under the direction of the City Manager.
 - Q. Now, are you familiar with the provisions of Section 74-16, the subject of this litigation?
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- 20 Q. Do you know what year that passed?
- 21 A. I would say earlier than 1976.
- Q. The current ordinance was passed in 1995 but it's your belief there was a previous provision that was similar to that?
 - A. Yes.

Q. What is the purpose behind Section 74-16?

A. The City does not permit any signs and I'm talking about --

MR. TUCKER: Objection, Your Honor. If this is getting into legislative history regarding the purpose behind the statute that was adopted by the legislative body, then I guess Mr. Rhodunda can produce that. I'm not sure if this witness is qualified to talk about legislative history.

THE COURT: You take your crack at him on cross-examination; all right? I guess I'll listen to the man who had been City Manager for 22 years.

MR. RHODUNDA: Thank you, Your Honor.

- A. Well, the purpose of the ordinance prohibits all signs, not just political signs. And I think everybody is discussing political signs but we remove open house signs, auction signs, garage sale signs, all types of signs between the sidewalk and curb which is a City right-of-way and also on the City-owned property.
- Q. Is that enforcement effort done regularly throughout the course of the year?
- A. It's done regularly. It's done by different departments. It's also done -- when I see it myself, I'd radio the Public Works Director and ask him to remove the sign or on occasion I'll remove it myself.
- Q. What is it specifically about signs that the City

Ferrese - direct

would want to ban signs from being on public property?

- A. We pride ourselves at Rehoboth Beach, as everybody is aware, of the cleanliness and beauty of the town. And by having all types of signs in the City right-of-way, on City property, just clutters up the town. It's an eyesore. The
- Q. Now, is there a policy about how you determine City property in the right-of-way?
 - A. Between the sidewalk and curb. Where there is no sidewalk and curb, we use the utility poles.
 - Q. And how long has that policy gone back in time?
- 12 A. For a long time.

residents don't want it.

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- Q. And has that policy been applied to the types of signs you previously identified, political signs and all the other commercial signs that you identified?
- 16 A. All types of signs.
- Q. Now, with regard to the events that have been discussed on July 7th, July 9th, the removal of signs belonging to Mr. Sokolove, when did you first get involved and have knowledge about the removal of those signs?
 - A. It was Saturday morning around 11:30 a.m. on July 9th. During the summertime, Administrative Offices at City Hall are open every Saturday from 8:30 until noon and I work myself every Saturday, so it was around 11:30 a.m. on July 9th.

Ferrese - direct

- Q. Did you ever give any directions to remove signs belonging to Mr. Sokolove?
 - A. No.

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- 4 Q. Now, you were present for the testimony of
- 5 Ms. Cargnino; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Well, you previously saw her affidavit that was submitted by plaintiffs' attorneys; is that correct?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Now, did you speak with her regarding the placement of political signs?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And what did you tell her?
- A. I told her that we do not prohibit -- we prohibit

 placement of political signs on City-owned property, and I

 said in the right-of-way.
 - Q. Well, her testimony is that you said, the only place you said that you couldn't put them was in some fresh, newly landscaped areas. Is that even conceivable to you that you would say that?
 - A. As far as landscaped areas in the Rehoboth Avenue, I told her also there we do not permit any signs there. And we do, on numerous occasions, have real estate signs, open house signs. We remove them.
- 25 | Q. Now, in regard to what areas you are speaking about

| Ferrese | - | direct |
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- A. Everywhere in the city and also on Rehoboth Avenue where we just spent over \$20 million to renovate Rehoboth Avenue from the canal all the way up to the boardwalk.
- Q. So when she says and testifies that you indicated to her she could only place the signs -- that the only prohibited place was streetscape public areas, is that a correct statement?
- A. I told her. And I'm familiar with the ordinance.

 I've been there a long time. And I've been involved in removal of signs for a long time. And I told her that we do not permit signs on City-owned property and in the right-of-way also..
 - Q. Now, you've had a chance to go and look at these signs that were photographed by the plaintiffs' witness Mr. Hill; is that correct?
 - A. Yes, I went yesterday morning personally myself.

 MR. RHODUNDA: May I approach the witness, Your

 Honor?

THE COURT: Freely.

MR. RHODUNDA: Your Honor, may I approach the witness? He had this with him, about the various pictures?

MR. SCHILTZ: I'm sorry?

THE COURT: Yes.

(Counsel confer.)

Ferrese - direct

MR. RHODUNDA: Without objection, I'm going to hand this package to the witness.

THE COURT: That's fine.

(Documents passed forward.)

BY MR. RHODUNDA:

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- Q. I've handed you this document because I know you have taken some notes because you actually visited the sites with these signs; is that correct?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And I believe they're still in order with how they
 were submitted with the memorandum, but I'd like to go to
 particularly Exhibit 12 first. It shows three signs: one
 sign for Mayor Cooper, one for Dennis Barbour and one for
 Ronald Patterson. Now, these pictures were taken on July
 18th and July 20th, 2005 according to Mr. Hill. When did
 you go look at this location?
 - A. Yesterday morning.
- Q. And were these three signs for Mr. Cooper, Barbour and Patterson at that location at that time?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And were those signs within the bounds that the City has for indicating whether it's private property and public right-of-way?
- A. As long as they're in line with the utility pole or behind the utility pole, we will not touch the signs at all.

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Q.

A.

the telephone pole on Lee Street.

So now they're legally conforming signs?

They're legally conforming signs. Our intent all

| С | se 1:05-cv-00514-GMS Document 34-4 Filed 10/18/2005 Page 21 of 47 Ferrese - direct | | |
|----|---|--|--|
| 1 | along is to be as lenient as possible on signs, but we do | | |
| 2 | have an ordinance against it. And as I stated earlier, we | | |
| 3 | just do not permit them in the public right-of-way or on | | |
| 4 | City-owned property, but we try to be as lenient as we can. | | |
| 5 | Q. Now, Exhibit 15 has two Barbour signs and one | | |
| 6 | Patterson? | | |
| 7 | A. And we wouldn't remove the signs because they're | | |
| 8 | behind the parking space. You can see the landscaping tie | | |
| 9 | there and there is a parking space right in front of it. | | |
| 10 | When you park your car there, you wouldn't even see the | | |
| 11 | signs so we wouldn't touch them. | | |
| 12 | Q. So they're located off the road and behind the | | |
| 13 | parking lot? | | |
| 14 | A. Yes, they are. | | |
| 15 | THE COURT: Let me ask you a question. We're | | |
| 16 | looking at the same picture, Photograph 15? | | |
| 17 | MR. RHODUNDA: Yes, Your Honor. | | |
| 18 | THE WITNESS: Yes. | | |
| 19 | THE COURT: And it looks and you are telling | | |
| 20 | me that this Dennis Barbour sign in the middle is behind the | | |
| 21 | tie? | | |
| 22 | THE WITNESS: Yes. And as of yesterday, I was | | |
| 23 | there, and all three are behind the landscaping tie. | | |
| 24 | THE COURT: Okay. | | |
| 25 | THE WITNESS: All three. | | |

Ferrese - direct 1 THE COURT: I mean, I'm just trying to interpret 2 the photograph. 3 MR. RHODUNDA: 4 THE COURT: Is that the metal crossbar of the 5 sign? 6 MR. RHODUNDA: I believe that is the landscaping. 7 8 THE WITNESS: That is a landscaping tie, Your 9 Honor. 10 THE COURT: No, not the full wooden thing. 11 asking about a gray mark, right there. Let me ask the 12 witness. You may not be able to see it, but -- and I'm 13 almost reluctant to. THE WITNESS: Your Honor, I might add, too, when 14 15 this hit the newspapers, all the politicians came in and 16 start the removing their signs. THE COURT: Okay. 17 THE WITNESS: As of yesterday, they were all 18 19 behind that landscaping tie. 20 THE COURT: All right. So let me make sure I 21 got your testimony. You are not saying that in this picture 22 it's necessarily behind, but when you saw it yesterday it 23 was behind; is that right? 24 THE WITNESS: Yes, yesterday.

THE COURT: All right.

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Ferrese - direct

1 | running on a yearly basis?

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is the first Mayor I worked for.

- A. They run for Commissioner and also I think it's every three years that the Mayor is up for re-election, and this
- Q. And typically, do candidates during these elections have campaign signs?
 - A. In Rehoboth, typically campaign signs are not put in the public right-of-way or on City parks as these ones are.
 - Q. But do they typically have campaign signs as part of their strategy for running for office?
- Yes, but you have to remember also in Rehoboth they 11 Α. don't run Republican or Democrat. It's not a big deal like 12 it is in other communities. They just run leading vote 13 getter, so it's a low key election. They don't come off 14 with a lot of dinners and advertising but they do put up 15 political signs and they do advertise in the local 16 newspapers and that's about it. They don't have all kinds 17 18 of dinners and fund raisers.
 - Q. How many registered voters are there in the City of Rehoboth?
- 21 A. There is about 1,300.
- Q. 1,300. And are you familiar with the zoning map of the City of Rehoboth?
- A. I'm familiar with the commercial residential area, yes, sir.

Q. And when it comes to the types of properties that abut the streets of the City of Rehoboth, could you give an estimate in your experience in being with the City of Rehoboth over 20 years, how much of that would it consist of private property abutting the various roads of the City of Rehoboth?

- A. Most of that property is located in the commercial zone district where they're allowed to build up to the property line. And I would say when you look at the overall picture of Rehoboth Beach, you are talking about not more than five percent.
- Q. Okay. I'm talking about what is the percentage of privately owned property in the City of Rehoboth, commercial or residential?
- A. The majority is residential, but I really don't know the percentage rate, no.
- Q. But if we just take the parts out of the question, is it true or not, just tell me from your knowledge of the zoning map, did the City parks, City-owned lands take up a lot of these areas abutting streets or is it overwhelmingly private residents and private commercial properties?
- A. It's overwhelmingly private residential, but we do have some nice parks in our city.

(Counsel confer.)

MR. RHODUNDA: Your Honor, may I have a moment

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Ferrese - direct
     to mark the exhibit?
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                  THE COURT: Yes.
 2
                  (Pause.)
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                  MR. RHODUNDA: Any objection to this coming in?
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                  MR. TUCKER: No objection.
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                  MR. RHODUNDA: Without objection, I'd like to
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     present this as an exhibit as 3. Thank you.
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                  THE COURT: That's fine. Do you want to
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     question him on it? What is it marked as?
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                  MR. RHODUNDA: Yes.
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                  THE COURT: What is it marked as for
11
      identification?
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                  THE DEPUTY CLERK: Three.
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                  MR. RHODUNDA: It's marked as Exhibit 3 without
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15
      objection.
                  THE COURT: So you are going to move it now?
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                  MR. RHODUNDA:
                                 Yes.
                  THE COURT: All right.
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                  MR. RHODUNDA: And there is no objection.
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                  THE COURT: Defense 3 is admitted without
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21
      objection.
                 (Defendants' Exhibit No. 3 was received into
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      evidence.)
23
                  THE COURT: Would you identify what it is,
24
      please?
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And on this map, R1, R2 -- the R districts are

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Q.

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residential zoning districts?

Yes.

Well, where there isn't a telephone, a utility pole,

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decision by?

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Ferrese - direct

then we use the parking space, on the other side of the parking space. That's mostly on Columbia Avenue, as the one that you saw at 53 Columbia where they put it behind the landscaping tie.

I said earlier, where the property line ends, where the owner's property ends, from that location to the street is the right-of-way, and on Columbia Avenue and Henlopen Avenue, that right-of-way is very wide. I think Mr. Hill testified 20-some feet. But as I stated earlier, we try to be fair. So what do we use? We use the utility poles. And if there isn't any, we use the parking spaces.

- Q. Now, you previously indicated that there is an election every year in Rehoboth?
- A. Yes.

- Q. Have your policies regarding the enforcement of the sign ordinance changed at all in the last five years?
- A. Last year we took, under my orders to the Building and Licensing Department, they removed two political signs. And those, they are not Commissioners of Rehoboth. Richard Sargent's sign was removed, Patrick Gossett's sign was removed. And what did they do? They put them where they were supposed to put them.

In this situation, not one time did

Mr. Sokolove call me. He ran around to all my department
heads but never came to my office to discuss this.

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Ferrese - direct

Q. Well, when you received a letter from Mr. Lawson that has been admitted as an exhibit, did those letters request the City's policy or did they threaten litigation?

A. To be honest with you, I didn't respond to

Mr. Lawson's letters because I've been threatened to be

arrested over this. I've been threatened quite a bit over

this. And I didn't respond to them because I felt that this

was headed to court, and that is exactly where we are today.

So I didn't respond to Mr. Lawson's letters.

First of all, I'm not an attorney. I discussed it with our City Solicitor and I felt we have an ordinance. I've always abided by the ordinance for my 23 years here and I'm not going to respond to it. And I did not order any signs removed on private property. I have never ordered that.

- Q. Now, in the police report, and I believe in the newspaper, there is some reference to you indicating the sign should not have been removed. What kinds of signs were you speaking about when you were making a statement like that?
- A. I was told by the police officer that some of the signs were removed on private property. And I told her, that Saturday morning on July 9th, if that was the case, that they should not have been removed on private property. I told her leave the two pictures here. And I would like to

Ferrese - direct

O'Bier the detective right now had not only political signs, they had Pep Air Conditioning signs and they had Emergit (phonetic) auction signs in the back of that pickup truck. The employee was doing his job and I instructed her to leave the pictures here, I would look into it. It was Saturday at 11:30 and I looked into it Monday morning.

MR. RHODUNDA: I believe the pictures are actually part of the police report that has already been admitted as the two photographs in the back of the pickup truck.

THE COURT: They're not appended to the exhibit that has been admitted. So if you want them, you will need to give them to me.

MR. RHODUNDA: Okay. I'm sorry. I thought we had gone and provided those. I'm sorry, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Well, it depends on which police report you are talking about. When you say 11:30 a.m., I assumed that you were -- or I heard your witness say 11:30 a.m., I assumed he was speaking about the police report written by Corporal Cleveland.

THE WITNESS: That's correct.

THE COURT: And if that is the one you are talking about, there is nothing attached to it.

MR. RHODUNDA: Right. That report is actually a

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Ferrese - direct

short summary report, but Mr. DeBier's report, actually the thicker one, has a number of attachments and included some photocopies of the two photographs taken of the back of the truck that show the a variety of signs the witnesses just testified about.

THE COURT: That is what you are referring to?

MR. RHODUNDA: That's correct, yes.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. RHODUNDA: May I have a moment, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes.

(Pause.)

BY MR. RHODUNDA:

- Q. Mr. Ferrese, did you give any directions to any City employees to remove any political signs of any political candidates?
- A. I did not give any directions whatsoever.
 - Q. In regard to the Sokolove signs, were you even aware that the signs were even taken down on July 7th?
 - A. I was not aware the signs were taken down until 11:30 a.m., July 9th when the police officer showed me the signs and said Mr. Hill wanted to see me in the parking lot.
 - Q. Have you ever in your tenure as being in your position ever directed the removal of any particular candidate's signs?
 - A. Only if they were on what I said earlier, never on

MR. TUCKER: May I please see that document,

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Your Honor?

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(Documents passed forward.)

that has been admitted into evidence and tell us if you

Mr. Ferrese, can you look at Plaintiffs' Exhibit 26

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BY MR. TUCKER:

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Ferrese - cross

- 1 recognize that?
- A. Yeah, those are the pictures that the police officer showed me on Saturday, July 9th.
- 4 | Q. Okay. And do you see Mr. Sokolove's signs there?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. And some of those signs also have Mr. Shields' name and Mr. McCarthy's name; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.

- 9 Q. Do you see any of Mayor Cooper's signs?
- 10 A. His signs weren't put up then, sir.
- 11 | Q. What?
- 12 A. His signs were put up after July 11th.
- Q. We'll get to that with another witness, sir, but if that is your testimony, so be it.
- Did you see any of Mayor Cooper's signs?
- 16 A. You asked me the question.
- THE COURT: Whoa, whoa, whoa. This is how it has to work, Mr. Ferrese.
- 19 THE WITNESS: Pardon?
- THE COURT: This is how it has to work. You
- 21 listen to the question, you answer only the question asked.
- 22 You don't interrupt; okay?
- THE WITNESS: All right/.
- THE COURT: Go ahead.
- 25 BY MR. TUCKER:

Ferrese - cross

- Q. Mr. Ferrese, I'll ask my question again. Do you see any of Mayor Cooper's signs?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Do you see any signs of Mr. Ron Patterson or
- 5 Mr. Barbour, if I'm pronouncing his name correctly?
- 6 A. No.
- Q. Now, these pictures were taken by a City Police Officer; is that correct?
- 9 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And according to her report that is admitted into evidence, you took them into your personal possession;
- 12 | is that correct?
- 13 A. I asked for them, yes.
- Q. Okay. How often do you take pictures that have been taken by a City Police Officer in your own personal custody?
- 16 A. Sir, I did not know there was an investigation going
- on. There were signs picked up. They're making an
- 18 accusation that the signs were picked up on private
- 19 property. They were picked up by a City employee and as
- 20 City Manager, it's my duty to look into it so I asked for
- 21 the pictures.
- 22 Q. A police officer was present; correct?
- 23 A. Yes. She did not say I can't have them.
- Q. She did not lead you to believe there was an investigation going on by this police officer into the

- 1 | taking of these signs?
- A. No, not whatsoever. No investigation on Saturday,
- July 9th, because in the back of the pickup signs there were
- 4 other signs, Pep Air Conditioning and Emergit Auction signs.
- 5 There weren't just political signs.
- 6 MR. TUCKER: Your Honor, may I approach the
- 7 witness?

- THE COURT: You may freely approach.
- 9 MR. TUCKER: Thank you.
- 10 BY MR. TUCKER:
- 11 Q. Sir, I'm going to show you Plaintiffs' Exhibit 5
- 12 | which is a copy of the police report which is already in
- 13 evidence that that police officer prepared. Are you
- 14 | familiar with that document?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. Okay. What is the title of that document?
- 17 A. A field service report.
- 18 Q. Okay.
- MR. TUCKER: May I approach the witness?
- 20 THE COURT: Yes.
- 21 BY MR. TUCKER:
- Q. What is the title below that regarding crimes and
- 23 associated information? Is that what it says?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Wasn't it your understanding that she was

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Ferrese - cross

- 1 investigating the possibility of theft of signs from private 2 property?
- 3 That, if you look at the time of that, it's after she talked to me. I talked to her at 11:30 in the morning. Nobody told me there was an investigation going I didn't even know Monday there was an investigation going on.
 - And you are the City Manager in charge of the police Q. department; is that correct?
 - Yes, but they don't tell me investigations that are going on. That's for sure.
 - Just so we're clear, you're talking to a City Police Q. Officer about some signs that have been taken and you don't believe an investigation is going on?
- 15 Α. Correct.

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- Would you agree with me based on the report that we Q. received from your City Police Officer there was an investigation going on?
 - Evidently after, yes, sir. I told you before that there was an investigation and Scott O'Bier even did an investigation on it. And I told you before, I was being threatened of being arrested over it. But on July 9th, at 11:30 a.m., I knew nothing about this.
- And can you tell the Court how many times in your long history as City Manager that you have taken pictures

Ferrese - cross

from City Police Officers who have been called about complaints in your own personal custody?

- A. I can't recall how many times.
- Q. More than once?

- A. When a police officer brings a picture in and makes an accusation that it's on private property and one of our employees did it, I would ask for the picture. They don't have to give it to me but I would ask for it and that's what I did in this case. I don't see where I did anything wrong.
- Q. Her report indicates I had taken two Polaroid photos of the signs that were in the back of the vehicle and Mr. Ferrese held on to them. Is that what happened?
- A. I asked for them.

THE COURT: Okay. Here is what has got to happen. Whatever evidentiary value you think you have gotten out of him having the pictures, it's done. Let's go to another topic unless there is something else about this that you really need to get.

MR. TUCKER: I understand, Your Honor. Time is short. I'll move on.

BY MR. TUCKER:

Q. When Mr. Rhodunda showed you various pictures that he marked and admitted into evidence and that also we have marked and admitted into evidence, and I would like to show you what has been marked as Plaintiffs' 10 which shows three

Filed 10/18/2005 Page 41 of 47 Ferrese - cross election signs, one for Mr. Patterson, one for Mr. Cooper, 1 2 one for Mr. Barbour and ask if you recognize that picture? 3 Α. Can I have my notes back, sir? 4 Do you need your notes to help you recognize that Q. 5 picture? 6 No, not to recognize the picture but I would like to refer to it. THE COURT: Well, you know what? THE WITNESS: I mean I recognize the picture, Your Honor. THE COURT: All right. Then just answer his questions. THE WITNESS: Yes, I recognize the picture. BY MR. TUCKER: Now, you testified about a policy about how signs that are between a utility pole and the street are removed under your policy, sir; is that correct? Α. Yes. Now, those signs or at least two of those signs, wouldn't you agree, are between the utility pole and the

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road?

Yes.

Okay.

Those signs --

The date the pictures were taken, you are correct.

So Mayor Cooper's sign -- which is one of them;

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Q.

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- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. And Mr. Barbour's sign, at least those two signs are in an area that you have testified to in your policy would
- 5 be removed but they weren't removed; is that correct?
- 6 A. On that day, they weren't.
 - Q. What day were they removed?
- 8 A. I have to get my notes, sir.

MR. RHODUNDA: To speed things up, it may be help the witness to refer to the document, because I'm going to just go back up there and give it to him.

THE COURT: Well, you are entitled to do that but they're also entitled to cross-examine, so I'm going to let them cross-examine and then I'll let you do your redirect.

MR. RHODUNDA: Thank you.

MR. TUCKER: Thank you, Your Honor.

BY MR. TUCKER:

- Q. I'm handing you a copy of the complaint with the pictures at least in black and white attached. Can you tell me when the signs were removed?
- A. Those signs, as of yesterday, were not at the location that you put. You put on Lee Street. I went to Lee Street. There were no signs there. If these signs are existing where this looks to me like another street, it's

- 1 | not Lee Street, these signs are illegal, you are correct.
 - Q. And they were not removed by the City despite the policy articulated in Court today; correct?
 - A. You're incorrect, sir. I do not know when the signs were put up. After the City removed the signs, when the City removed the signs on a Thursday and a Saturday, it hit the media and I don't recall if the Building and Licensing Department has been around removing signs since that day until we got this issue resolved today.
 - Q. Is it your testimony, sir, that your employees under your management have not gone out and done any sign enforcement since this hit the newspaper?
 - A. I'm not aware of our employees other than one other time removing other candidates signs and Mr. Sokolove's signs. One other time I'm aware. Since this hit the newspaper on the Monday after July 9th until this day, only one other time am I aware of it.
 - Q. And who was that employee?
 - A. From what I can understand, it was the Building and Licensing Department but I don't know which employee.
 - Q. Okay. So it's your testimony there has been one sweep since this issue hit the paper the Monday after 7/9?
- 23 A. Yes.

- 24 Q. Which was a Saturday.
- 25 A. After 7/11.

- 1 Q. Okay. One sweep after 7/11?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.

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- 3 Q. And that's it?
- 4 A. That's all I can recall, sir.
- Q. And according to the affidavit, that picture was taken after that date. Do you understand that? The picture that is in front of you right now.
 - A. If your question is -- I'm going to tell you right now it's illegal.
 - THE COURT: No, hold. Hold. Mr. Ferrese, stop.

 Stop.
 - You need to be specific, sir. When you say after that date, I don't know what you are asking; all right? So maybe the witness doesn't know what you are asking.
 - MR. TUCKER: Very well, Your Honor. I apologize.
- 18 BY MR. TUCKER:
- Q. Mr. Ferrese, you heard Mr. Hill testify here today; correct?
- 21 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And you heard him testify that he took pictures in the City on July 18th and July 20th; correct?
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And I'm going to represent to you that that is one of

- 1 the pictures that is in the packet that Mr. Hill took; okay?
- 2 A. (Nodding yes.)
- 3 | Q. That picture was either taken, based on Mr. Hill's
- 4 | testimony, either on the 18th or the 20th of July. Can we
- 5 agree that is after July 11th?
- 6 A. Definitely.
- 7 Q. So there was one sweep, and we can say that those two
- 8 signs that you have admitted were in the public right-of-way
- 9 were not removed by City employees; correct?
- 10 A. They were not removed.
- 11 THE COURT: And what day was the day of the
- 12 sweep, sir?
- 13 THE WITNESS: Your Honor, I can't recall what
- 14 | day because, today, I mean we were talking two weeks later
- 15 but there was only one sweep.
- 16 THE COURT: Some time after July 11th, one
- 17 sweep?
- THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 19 THE COURT: But you don't know when?
- 20 THE WITNESS: No, and all candidates were taken,
- 21 removed, not just Mr. Sokolove's. Mr. McCarthy's and
- 22 Mr. Shields'.
- 23 THE COURT: Okay. Fine.
- 24 BY MR. TUCKER:
- 25 Q. And these are Mayor signs, an incumbent; right?

Ferrese - cross

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THE COURT: You really have to move on, please.

MR. TUCKER: Yes.

4 THE COURT: You now have hit that point at least

four times. I just don't have time for you to repeat.

BY MR. TUCKER:

- Q. Now, you heard the testimony of Ms. -- and I'm going to take a crack at her last name -- Cargnino's testimony?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. And you have seen her affidavit; correct?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Now, it seems to me that there is only two
 13 explanations, sir, for the great disparity between her
 14 testimony and yours?

THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to object. Ask a question. Please don't give us an editorial comment. Okay?

MR. TUCKER: I apologize, Your Honor.

18 BY MR. TUCKER:

- Q. Is Melissa's job at stake regarding the outcome of this election, Mr. Ferrese, as far as you know?
 - A. I don't understand your question.
- Q. Let me ask it this way. Is your job at stake if there is a change in administration?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 | Q. It's not?

A. No.

- 2 | Q. Okay.
- A. There has been accusations in the paper made that I'm going to get fired, but they better read the City charter.
 - Q. So you don't believe if a new administration comes in that could be a bad thing possibly for you?
 - A. Sir, I've been there 23 years. I worked under numerous Commissioners, I worked under three Mayors. They need four votes to fire me and they need justification to fire me. One Mayor can not come in and fire me and all my department heads. The department heads work for the City Manager. The Commissioners and the Mayor can fire me. They need four votes. They have to do it at a public meeting. I'm entitled to a hearing. And if a Mayor comes in and thinks he is going to fire me, he is one vote. Okay? Read the charter.
 - Q. I'm familiar with the charter, sir. And if there were four votes after this election because of a change, that is a possibility; isn't that fair?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Now, you articulated this policy about the utility pole, you articulated a policy about sidewalks. You also mentioned a policy about parking spots. Where can I find that in writing?
 - A. That's a policy between me and the departments. The